

What is claimed is:

1. An application programming interface for a cordless telephone having an advanced programmable feature set, said interface comprising:
 - (a) a hardware interface module for communicating with the telephone in the telephone's native programming language;
 - (b) a server programming interface for layering installable server modules over the hardware interface module;
 - (c) a plurality of server modules overlying said server programming interface; and
 - (d) a client application programming interface overlying said server modules enabling a client to write an application which utilizes functionality provided by said server modules.
2. An application programming interface according to claim 1 wherein said installable server modules provide access to an address book, a call log, and a message store.
3. An application programming interface according to claim 2 wherein said installable server modules are selected from the group consisting of an address book engine, a call log engine, an LCD engine, an audio engine, and a message store management engine.
4. An application programming interface according to claim 3 wherein access is provided to at least five classes of features including displaying and scrolling text on handsets, displaying softkeys, edit control for I/O from/to handsets, selection control for selecting features from the feature set, and slider control for providing variable input.
5. An application programming interface according to claim 4 wherein said client application programming interface is accessible via VISUAL BASIC.

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6. An application programming interface according to claim 5 wherein said client application programming interface supports applications selected from the list consisting of a call history viewer, a call status viewer, a message viewer, an address book editor, an a text terminal.

7. A method for programming a cordless telephone having an advanced programmable feature set, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a hardware interface module for communicating with the telephone in the telephone's native programming language;
- (b) providing a server programming interface for layering installable server modules over the hardware interface module; and
- (c) providing a client application programming interface overlying the server modules enabling a client to write an application which utilizes functionality provided by the server modules.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the installable server modules provide access to an address book, a call log, and a message store.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the installable server modules are selected from the group consisting of an address book engine, a call log engine, an LCD engine, an audio engine, and a message store management engine.

10. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of providing access to at least five classes of features including displaying and scrolling text on handsets, displaying softkeys, edit control for I/O from/to handsets, selection control for selecting features from the feature set, and slider control for providing variable input.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the client application programming interface is accessible via VISUAL BASIC.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the client application

programming interface supports applications selected from the list consisting of a call history viewer, a call status viewer, a message viewer, an address book editor, and a text terminal.